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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

Associated Students of the University of Montana
(ASUM)

2-11-2004

Montana Kaimin, February 11, 2004

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

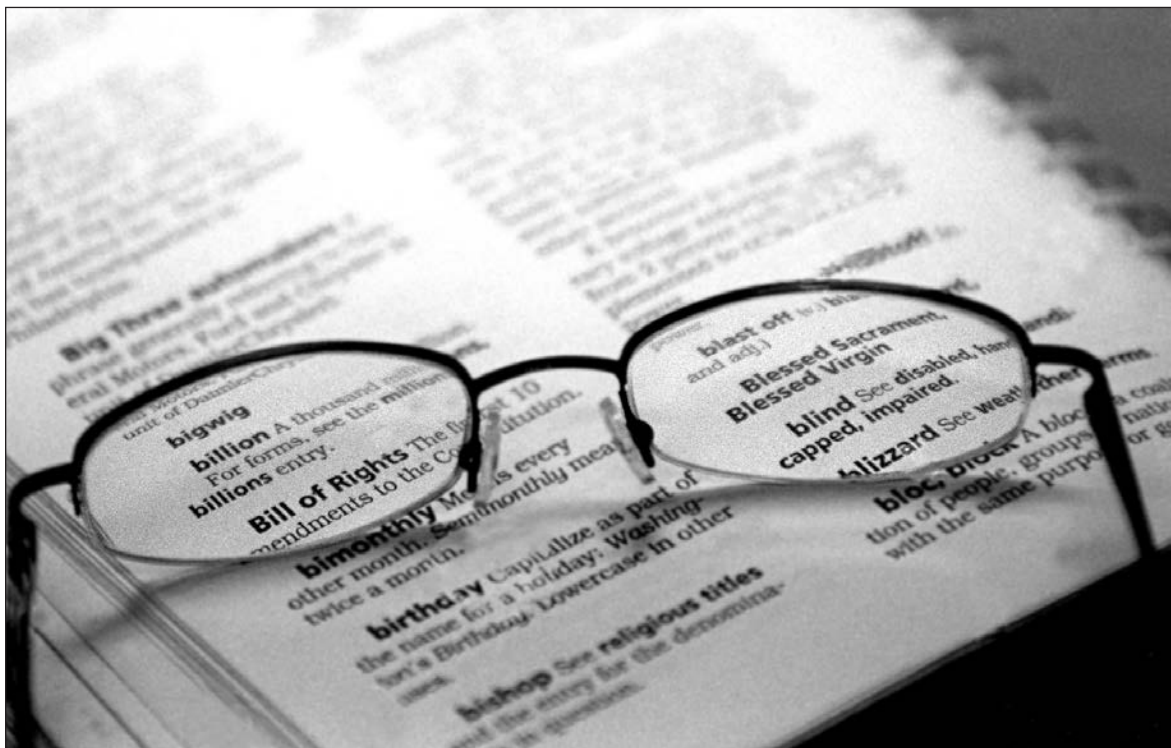
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Montana Kaimin Photo Illustration

Studying strains students' eyesight

Fred Miller
Montana Kaimin

While some college students pursue diplomas, their eyesight can become worse by degrees, according to some optometrists.

Missoula optometrist Thomas Ferguson said myopia, or near-sightedness due to an elongation of the eyeballs, is common among college students. He also said students' study habits may worsen the problem.

In almost 30 years of practicing optometry in Missoula, Ferguson said he has even seen the development of myopia in student

Staring at computer screens, books could contribute to bad vision

patients who had been far-sighted. "I seldom find somebody going through at least graduate school without becoming myopic or at least getting a lot worse," Ferguson said.

Some of the factors Ferguson and others say contribute to myopia are not exclusive to college students, but they typify the academic life. Myopia is made worse by constant near work or focusing vision on objects close to the eyes, such as books with small print and glaring computer screens, Ferguson said. He said spending too much time with one's nose buried in a book or eyes glued to a computer screen is not natural. From the days when humans were hunters and gatherers, vision has been calibrated to see a long way off.

"The human eye, the way it's designed, is designed for distance vision with occasional near work," Ferguson said.

He explained that light is focused on the corneas in the back of the eyes by lenses in the front. Those lenses are expanded and contracted by the ciliary muscle. Focusing the eyes on extremely close objects for too long causes that muscle to become strained and the eyeball to lose its shape, which causes myopia, Ferguson said.

"As that ciliary muscle stays constricted for long periods of time ... that constant pressure or stretching from that ciliary muscle tends to stretch the eye tissue a little bit," Ferguson said.

See **EYES**, Page 8

Student accused of Bookstore theft

Kristen Cates
Montana Kaimin

A University of Montana student could face felony charges of theft after allegedly returning textbooks to The Bookstore with copies of a receipt, one official said.

The student, whose name has not yet been released, allegedly made false returns of books worth approximately \$2,700, beginning Jan. 26, said Capt. Jim Lemcke, assistant director of Public Safety. However, Lemcke said, the report is still under investigation and the dollar amount could change.

Investigators are not certain how the student obtained the books or where the books came from.

He said he will likely turn the report over to the County Attorney's Office once it is completed.

The student was detained by Public Safety on Jan. 30, when officers found approximately 10 copies of the same receipt on him, Lemcke said.

"They were tipped off by his numerous returns," Lemcke said.

Bryan Thornton, manager of The Bookstore, said staff noticed the student after three reported return trips to the store.

"A return person (cashier) said, 'I think I've seen this person a couple times,'" he said.

Video footage was then reviewed and matched with point-of-sales receipt tapes to determine that the student had been in The Bookstore between four and 10 times, Thornton said.

"We took some time and reviewed several days of video," he said. "We were at the process of turning photos in to police when he came in again."

Allegedly, the student had made returns to The Bookstore using the same receipt and Lemcke said one of the returns was legitimate.

Thornton said there has always been shoplifting, but this is the first case he's seen of this nature.

He said the cost of shoplifting has increased in the last four years from \$75,000 to \$115,000 of the total sales each year, but he cannot identify the reason. Last year The Bookstore took in about \$9 million.

He said The Bookstore decided 10 years ago to let students bring backpacks inside the store, adding that 99.9 percent of students are honest. Thornton said he has not considered banning backpacks in the store.

He said security during the first weeks of school has improved over the past 20 years because security guards have been hired. Plus, in recent years, he's increased the number of staff roaming the floors of the textbook area. This is the first semester the new security system has been in use.

Thorton said the new system uses 32 digital cameras.

"(We have) the ability to quickly go through a long period of time," he said.

There was another report of shoplifting at The Bookstore on Monday — probably a misdemeanor, Lemcke said. That case is under investigation as well.

Revered local kayaker drowns in Chilean river

Lucia Stewart
Montana Kaimin

A former University of Montana student and avid kayaker was killed on a river in Chile recently, a death that comes as a shock to the Missoula kayaking community.

Jonathan "Sully" Sullivan drowned while kayaking on the Rio Manso in Chile on Jan. 28. An instructor at the Outdoor Recreation program, he was doing what he loved.

Sullivan was kayaking in Chile on a personal trip, taking a break from UM to have a good time, explore new rivers and evaluate life, said K. B. Brown, a health and human performance student and Outdoor Recreation instructor.

Sullivan was attempting to cross a flat section of river above a deadly rapid along with six others, according to reports by Zachary Cowan, owner of the Adventure Tours Argentina Chile. The Rio Manso is in southern Chile and crosses the border from Argentina on its course to the Pacific Ocean.

Sullivan was the last in the group to attempt the crossing when he was swept down the river in a swift current into several large sieves, collections of boulders that can hold a swimmer under water. His group members tried to pull him from the

river but were unsuccessful.

Sullivan was forced to bail and swim from his kayak.

"The entire group ran downstream hoping for a glimpse of Jon and an additional chance to rescue him," Cowan wrote in the report. "Then seconds later, Polk (a fellow kayaker) saw Jon reappear below the second drop. When Jon went out of view for the last time, he was still wearing his helmet."

The next time Sullivan's helmet was seen, it was floating in the river by itself. Sullivan's boat and much of his gear were recovered, but his body was not.

The search continues for Sullivan's body along the river's shores, according to La Nacion Line newspaper in Chile.

A memorial for Sullivan will be held Feb. 21 at the Elk's Lodge in Missoula.

Sullivan was well-known and loved in the Missoula boating community, and was seen as a friend by many paddlers.

"I never paddled with anyone who so clearly loved his time on the water," local kayaker Jesse Kodadek said in an e-mail from Chile.

Sullivan's car is known in the Missoula



Sullivan

boating community, complete with its perfectly placed stickers, which are 99 percent kayak-related.

"The town has lost an ambassador," said Tucker Whalen, a friend of Sullivan. "He knew how to do everything this town had to offer from traditional rustic Montana lifestyle to the adventure extreme athletic lifestyle. He represented it all and really well."

Sullivan was developing his wrangling skills, working as a trail guide and hunting guide to pay for his trip

to Chile. He was a "horse-whisperer" of sorts, always fascinated with Chilean horse culture, Whalen said.

He was also an avid telemark skier who was considering switching to alpine gear when he returned in March so he could jump 60-foot cliffs instead of just 30-foot cliffs.

"He had no fear of broken bones," Whalen said. "He saw how you could do things and did it."

Spending over 200 days a year kayaking, mostly on the Alberton Gorge, Sullivan had dreams of kayaking the greatest rivers of the world. He talked about his goals of kayaking the rivers pictured in magazines, Whalen said.

Brown, the Outdoor Recreation instructor, remembered meeting Sullivan in his first class at UM four years ago.

"We were always going to the river after class," Brown said. "He always had a good day on the river, always with a big smile."

Sullivan became an avid teacher, aspiring to continue working in the outdoor field after he began teaching kayaking at the Outdoor Recreation program a year ago.

"His ultimate goal was to do what he loved and get paid for it without sacrificing who he was as a person," Brown said. "We looked into the future and that's all we saw, paddling and riding."

Chile was Sullivan's first big kayaking trip. The country is known by kayakers for its crystal-blue exotic rivers in remote, green jungles, framed with snow-capped alpine peaks.

"There is a connection between Missoula and Chile, a lot of kayakers end up going down there," Brown said.

In his last e-mail to Brown, Sullivan wrote of the Futaleufu River valley in

See **KAYAKER**, Page 8

Weather or not

High: 34
Low: 5



Partly Cloudy

For some freak reason we're going to see some really cold temperatures tonight. It hasn't dropped below 10 degrees in several weeks, so throw on a few extra blankets. The chances of precipitation for the next several days are big goose eggs, too. Well — yeah, that's about all we have today. This is some boring weather.

Kaimin Weather - "Checking our watch, tapping our foot ..."

Accuracy Watch

The Montana Kaimin is committed to accuracy in its reports. If you think the Kaimin has committed an error of fact, please call 243-2394 or e-mail editor@kaimin.org and let us know. If we find a factual error was made, we will correct it on this page.

Nonpartisan group

The Center for American Progress was described in a Tuesday column in the Montana Kaimin as a neoconservative group. The group actually calls itself a nonpartisan group that pushes for progressive reforms.

Wrong ejection

In a Tuesday Kaimin article, the wrong person was identified as being ejected from a men's Grizzly basketball game. The correct person was head coach Pat Kennedy.

Discount correction

A Feb. 5 story about tuition discounts for dependents of UM staff reported that the discounts are available this semester. The discounts will actually become available during summer session.

Calendar of Events

To-dizzle, Feb. 11

ASUM Senate Meeting
UC 332-333 — 6 p.m.

If you don't attend, how will you know they won't talk about you?

Omelet
Food Zoo — 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Omelet bar lunch - Eggs, the best thing you can eat with a shell since they made the harvesting of sea turtles illegal.

Snowboarding Seminar
Rec Center — 6 p.m.

"Snowboard Maintenance," seminar. Are you board of the same old seminar? Ha! What fun! You see the humor derives from the clever use of a homophone!

Play - "A Streetcar Named Desire"
Montana Repertory Theatre — 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10-14 and Feb. 17-21

Streetcar Named Desire. Boy meets girl, girl go crazy.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Valentine Art Fair Snooky-Wookums
UC Atrium — 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Valentine Art Fair at the UC. It's cute how the art majors want us to believe they ever had valentines. They make good art though.

Delicious Blood Drive

UC 330-331 — 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

American Red Cross blood drive — Are you in the market for a good bleeding? You're in luck!

Valentine's Day Dinner
Food Zoo — 5-7:30 p.m.

Baby, there's something about the way that mashed potatoes and grape gelatin dribbles down your face that makes me so in love with you.

Friday, Feb. 13

UM Music Day
Music Building — all day

UM Music Day for state high school students. So don't totally freak if you see some short kids in Mudd jeans and belly shirts there.

Movie vs. Earth

UC Theater — 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Movies - "Intolerable Cruelty," 8 p.m., and "Kill Bill Vol. 1," 10 p.m. Forget just how miserable your pathetic life is, if only for four hours.

Student Recital

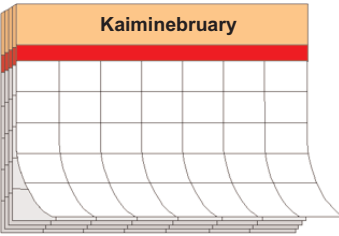
Music Recital Hall — 7:30 p.m.

Tenor Thomas Hensley will be singing his heart out in hopefully a non literal sort of way.

Art Exhibit
Social Sciences Building —
11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.)

Exhibit - "MATRIX Press: Selections from the UM Department of Art Print Collection."

Items for the Calendar of Events may be submitted to editor@kaimin.org. We do not guarantee the publication of all submitted items.



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V-Day 2004
Celebrating Vagina Warriors

The Women's Center, Amnesty International and ASUM proudly present the University of Montana's 5th annual benefit production of

Eve Ensler's
"The Vagina Monologues"

February 14th at 6:00PM and 9:00PM
at the University of Montana Music Recital Hall

\$7 in advance and \$10 at the door - tickets are available at the Adams Center Box Office, Southgate Mall, Worden's Market, the University Center Box Office and at griztix.com

Stop by the Raven Cafe with your ticket between 7:00PM and 9:00PM on February 14th and receive \$5 off a combination of any two drinks AND any two tapas.

For more information call the Women's Center at 243-4453



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Law student to take over as resolution officer

Curtis Wackerle
Montana Kaimin

When fielding complaints from students about grades and professors, Student Resolution Officer Ryan Thompson said his new, bigger office with windows and a glass door is a blessing.

"Sometimes students get emotional," said Thompson, a senior in communications from West Glacier. "It's not easy to bring a complaint against one of your professors."

The new office on the second floor of the UC, which moved up from a smaller, windowless office in the ASUM suites on the first floor a month ago, will soon be home to a new student advocate.

The ASUM interview committee has recommended that Heidi Goettel, a second-year law student from Helena, be hired as the new resolution officer, taking over for Thompson after he graduates in May.

"I'm very excited," Goettel said.

The officer's primary duty is to act as an advocate for students who feel they were given an unfair grade by a professor, and to assist students in a mediation process outlined in the University of Montana's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Thompson said he believes Goettel is right for the position.

"She'll bring a lot to the position with her knowledge of law

and mediation," he said.

Thompson is pushing to change how the duty is transferred to the new officer. In the past, the new officer would be selected in the middle of the spring semester and would shadow the outgoing one for about a month. Thompson said that is not enough time to get a good feel for the intricacies of the position.

"I want to try to eliminate that, just handing it off cold," he said.

ASUM responded to his request and began the hiring process for the new officer in December. Goettel will be working with Thompson for the better part of the semester before taking over full time in the fall.

Currently, no funding is set aside to pay Goettel for the work she will do between now and late spring, when former new hires had begun their work.

ASUM Business Manager Avelin Wolff said the Budget and Finance Committee hopes to change this at next week's committee meeting by tapping UM's zero-base fund. The fund money comes from interest accrued by UM accounts and is used to get administration programs up and running when no other funding is

available, Wolff said.

Wolff said she assumes ASUM will unanimously support funding the extra time for Goettel to learn about her job.

"I assume it's going to be yays across the board," she said.

Goettel said she applied for the position because mediation is her primary interest in law.

"Mediation is a great alternative to litigation," she said. "Mediation is a real resolution. Lawsuits tend to lead to more hostility."

Thompson said the resolution officer reserves the right not to assist students if he doesn't feel their claims are legitimate. Students are also allowed to pursue mediation on their own, he said.

Thompson said he handles one to four claims a week that he feels are worth pursuing. The highest volume of complaints comes at the beginning and the end of the semester, he said.

The mediation process begins when students come with a grievance. The officer assesses the situation and takes it up with the professor. Thompson said he attempts to resolve the situation during this initial phase of phone calls.

"I've been able to handle most

cases without going to a meeting," Thompson said.

The phone calls are usually very cordial, and professors are usually more than willing to assist, Thompson said. But occasionally they get defensive when accused of wrongdoing, he said.

If there is still a dispute, the first step is a meeting among the student, the professor and the faculty advocate, who assists the professor throughout the process.

"Eight or nine out of 10 times, students come out of step one feeling satisfied," Thompson said.

Step two is a more formal meeting with a designated mediator from the law school or the communications department.

"I've never had to do a step two while I've been here," Thompson said.

If a student is still not satisfied, the third and final step is a trial-like hearing with the provost as the judge and university faculty and graduate students as jury.

Thompson said the process is not meant for students seeking immediate retribution.

"We are here to assist students in getting what they deserve in an education they pay a tremendous amount for," he said.

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UM purchases Blackboard upgrade

Alisha Wyman
Montana Kaimin

Students taking classes such as "Montana Writers" or "Voices of the American Renaissance" will find some of their class discussions happening on the Internet more and more often.

David Moore, a professor in the English department, has begun using the current Blackboard system this semester, which allows him to post course materials and arrange discussions on the Internet that students can access any time.

University administrators have recently purchased an upgrade of the Blackboard system. Right now 3,000 user accounts are available, but students have claimed all of them, said Ray Ford, associate vice president for information technology at the University of Montana. Students must have a Blackboard account to access course materials on the Web.

The University stopped adding classes before the 3,000-member account limit was filled. Students taking classes for the first time that require Blackboard took the places of students who stopped using it after the fall semester.

"As more and more instructors started using this, the number of students using it goes up," Ford said. "This (upgrade) is really designed to support all of the students we could

give accounts to."

Class participation improves with online chat sessions, like those Blackboard provides, Moore said.

"I really like to get students involved with each other and engaged in the ideas," he said. "Students are starting to talk to each other about the text."

The new system, a purchase the administration made on New Year's Eve, will provide accounts for the entire student population and more. The software costs about \$50,000 for all UM campuses. The University negotiated a \$30,000 deal for two computers from which the system will run.

The Blackboard site appears similar to a traditional Web site, and can be opened at www.umonline.umt.edu. After logging on, a member's classes are displayed, and the user selects a course and its materials.

Students can submit assignments and access syllabi and other reading supplements to classes. Professors can keep a grade book on the system, send e-mails to all students at one time, set up chat sessions and post assignments and syllabi.

As use of the system spreads, Blackboard may replace some FacPacs and reserve materials, Ford said. Traditionally, professors have left materials on reserve at the library for students to check out, but obtain-

ing them can be inconvenient, he said.

"You have to go someplace, you have to check (the materials) out and there's a limit on the materials that people can check out at one time," he said.

In contrast, Blackboard is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

But currently, glitches in the system may be hindering constant access, according to several students who use it.

"Probably two out of three times that I try to get on it says, 'Page cannot be displayed,'" said Alyssa Buchan, an education major. "Or sometimes I can't get on it at all, so it's been pretty frustrating."

One night Buchan was unable to log on to do an assignment for a science class, so she had to come to school early to finish it.

"When it does work, it's fine," she said. "It's cool to see what other people say (in online discussions)."

Ford was unaware of any major defect in the system and said if there was one, it was temporary. One of the University's goals with the new system is to prevent problems by having two computers.

"We're trying to upgrade the system. We know that it's strained," Ford said. "The long-term plan for next September is to have a backup running at all times."

The University is testing the new system this spring, and it should be up and running by fall semester, Ford said.

In the meantime, professors like Moore will use the current Blackboard system for their classes, taking advantage of the benefits available now.

"Generally there's a kind of wonderful paradox about it — that through technology, it's possible to have even more human interaction," he said. "But that highlights the challenge that you don't let online discussion take the place of classroom discussion. It should amplify the classroom discussion."

Career Services

Graduate School Workshop

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All workshops are in the Lommasson Center, Room 154 from 4:30-6:00 pm

Drums
of
steel

Junior Angie Biehl practices on the lead pan in preparation for a private performance this Friday with fellow members of the Islanders Steel Drum Band. Biehl has been playing the steel drums since coming to UM three years ago.

Mike Cohea/Montana Kaimin



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Film series highlights media’s role in war, politics

Alex Strickland
Montana Kaimin

Mainstream media in our nation will come under fire Thursday night in the UC Theater in the latest installment of the Peace and Justice Film series.

The series, sponsored by Students for Peace and Justice, includes weekly films that focus on contemporary issues in our society.

This week’s films include “Independent Media in a Time of War,” a piece about the media in Iraq, and “Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communication Politics in Dubious Times.”

Paul Lachapelle, a forestry graduate student and member of Students for Peace and Justice, said that the films aren’t meant to

change people’s minds, but simply to provide a forum for open discussion and debate.

“We feel like it’s our patriotic duty,” Lachapelle said. “I think our forefathers would appreciate the debating.”

This year’s series of 10 films is titled “Does U.S. Foreign Policy Undermine National and Global Security?”

Lachapelle said the group isn’t trying to provide an answer to this question with the films, but to provide critical analysis.

He stressed that the films are not meant to change people’s minds, but to offer another point of view.

“A lot of people think we’re trying to propagandize,” he said, “but the films are based on empirical evidence.”

Students for Peace and Justice is a fairly

new group, Lachapelle said. He said the group is only one-and-a-half years old, and has a small budget.

He said the entire budget is spent on the theater and a projector, but people are asked to give donations to help cover these costs as well as advertising.

Also sponsoring the series is the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center. Anita Doyle, the director of the center, worked with Lachapelle to choose the films.

“Our aim was to provide programs that helped people understand underpinnings of U.S. foreign policy,” she said, “to better answer questions for themselves.”

Doyle said it seemed to “those of us who have been studying this sort of thing for a long time” that current foreign policy did not

help quell terrorism and promote peace.

Audiences for the series range in both age and background, Lachapelle said.

“People commuted from Stevensville and Polson every week,” he said.

Last semester more than 600 people showed up for eight films, and the first in this semester’s series had an audience of about 200.

The films also range in topic from the war in Iraq to the modern media to the drug war.

“We try to appeal to lots of people’s interests and needs,” Lachapelle said.

“We aren’t trying to be anarchists or radicals,” he said. “We’re fulfilling an American obligation.”

The free shows are every Thursday night at 6 and 7:30 p.m. The series ends April 8.

Hol’ up now and let me get fetal on all y’all



Uncle Luke
Presents

By Luke Johnson

Question: Are y’all foos ready to party or what? Hells yeah!!!!!!!!!!!!

Actually, that won’t be happening this week. No party. There’ll be no smart-ass, sexed-up, self-aggrandized Uncle Luke this week.

Just the real me.

Last semester we Kaimin staffers got a chance to work with Maurice Possley, a brilliant journalist who works at the Chicago Tribune. Maurice wasn’t the biggest fan of most of my columns, but he did like it when I “dropped the b.s.” and wrote with sincerity. So Maurice, this one’s for you, buddy:

I think we pretty much all act differently depending upon the people we’re around, I guarantee that we are all deeper, all have more going on inside of our heads than we let most other people in on and even though we are aware of this, we pigeonhole others, instinctively trying to place them on some arbitrary scale, sometimes with as little information as what they look like or what they wear, and that’s why we should never be surprised when people overcome our classifications and surprise us with a new side, we’ve never seen.

Of course the only person I can really speak for is myself and when I write these columns, I often come off as a crude, cocksure smart-ass, and while that type of behavior certainly makes up a part of my personality and how I act around others, it’s mostly a front.

I have no reason to be cocky, I mean you should see me, I look like some accidental laboratory cross

between a middle-aged guy (I’ve got a waistline that’s threatening to increase and a hairline threatening to recede) and a 13-year-old brat desperately trying (and failing) to grow facial hair, I am the first human to be born with absolutely no muscle mass, I’m just a bag of skin and bones, with small pockets of fat thrown in for good measure, yet somehow this combination comes together quite well on the whole, because you’d have a lot of trouble throwing me in the unsexy bracket, as strange as I may look.

Sorry, that’s just my cockiness coming out again, but even though I act cocky, I’m incessantly, invariably worrying about this or that, I’m almost painfully unsure of myself at times, and that’s OK.

Sometimes I’ll be walking in the grocery store or working out at the gym and out of nowhere, Fear, and I will feel the eyes of strangers watching me, you’re not really watching me other than a casual glance, but I will feel that you are nonetheless and, fuck, I will feel 50 sets of eyes stare through me, me transparent, disgraced and exposed, naked and in shame and I will feel like dropping to my knees and curling up in the fetal position and I will want to, would pay anything to escape or to implode, and then I come to my senses.

Or sometimes I will be walking between classes and I will cross paths with you and we will not acknowledge each other, we will avoid contact because that’s what we’re supposed to do, because I don’t know you, because these are the social rules that we follow, but I want to show you that I’m with you, I want to see you for who you really are, I want to show you me.

Or sometimes I will walk to school in the morning and realize that I am early and I’ll sit down in the front yard of some random house under a tree

and think about how lucky I am to have such great friends, such a great family, to be able to do what I do and to live where I live and I will walk to class and try my hardest to spread my love to this world, I will smile at you, I will shake your hand, I will hold the door for you, I will give you a stick of gum, I will pick up the notebook you dropped, I will make small talk, I will get caught up in my daily routine and I will forget and I will fail to show you my love again.

I believe in God, I believe in each one of us, I believe in miracles, that we all have guardian angels, I believe in love, I haven’t been to church in a while, I don’t believe in hell, I don’t believe that we were put here to be judged or to suffer, I don’t believe that things are random, I don’t know if I believe in fate, but I think I do, I know that I’m not anywhere close to understanding.

And everybody has pain and sometimes we wear it on our sleeves, because the sympathy feels earned and because sometimes you want to hold on to the self-pity more than you want to let it go and because it’s cooler to be sarcastic, jaded and build your own prison of melancholy than it is to be honest and vulnerable and real.

And here we are and we are all the same and I’m only 21 and I feel like I’ve been through some of it all and I’ve done some bad things and I’ve done some good things and I’ve done a ton of mediocre things, I’ve been completely lazy and weak and let so many opportunities slip away, and yet I’ve surprised myself at times with my own perseverance, strength and accomplishments, and in me I have seen the best and worst humans have to offer, from despicable, blind stupidity to immutable love.

And it’s not so hard to figure out that we’re all the same, we’re all

going through similar things, but with different variables, different scenery — somehow this scenery seems to be enough to disconnect us from one another, we move as six billion parallel lines, but we rarely cross although we live for those moments, we are six billion and counting, our struggles and triumphs are the same, but we cannot relate that to each other, we cannot open each other up to that vulnerable state, these seem to be the rules, but I want to run up to you, a complete stranger, grab you on the shoulders, violently shake you and let you know that I love you, I want to know who you really are.

It doesn’t work like that though, we all have way too much armor, too many errands to run, we have to find other ways so we hold the door for each other, we give the gift of an

uneasy smile when passing on the sidewalk, we talk about the weather, we have so much unspeakable in common, yet we struggle to find common ground, we may feel lonely, may feel that isolation from one another, but we must know that we are never alone, even in our own little worlds.

We would not be here if we were not helped by others, we can be there for other people, we can show off our hearts, we can do the right thing, life is long and there is always another chance to prove yourself, the worst thing you can do is to adopt a cynic’s outlook on life and believe it.

Sorry, I kind of got started speaking in run-on cliches. You’ll have to start calling me the Reverend Luke. But I’ve got one more thing to say and I really feel it: I love you!

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The Food Zoo will be closed from 1pm to 5pm to prepare
No Take-Out Program during the Holiday Dinner

Thursdays, February 12, 2004- 5pm to 7:30pm

The University of Montana - Missoula

Kayakers keep rust off by rolling in indoor pool

Peter Coyle

Montana Kaimin

If a kayaker is forced to ditch his boat, it's tradition for him to drink alcohol from his Neoprene booties after the run. Drinking from a stinky piece of footwear that is shoved into the bottom of a kayak and soaked in river water for hours is great motivation to avoid getting out of the boat.

The solution is perfecting a roll — the ability to right a kayak when turned over — which is the best way to minimize the chance of injury or death.

The process takes time and can be quite cold to learn outside.

That's why the 84-degree Grizzly pool is the perfect spot for kayakers to keep on top of their form and knock some rust off during winter.

Last Sunday, the Grizzly pool began holding open-boating sessions.

Shane Maixner was at the pool Sunday night to work on his form.

"I don't want to swim," Maixner said. "I got hit by a big wave (on the Kootenai River) and got dumped over this season."

After hitting a rock wall and attempting two or three rolls, Maixner's friends had to pull him from the river, he said.

Maixner has been boating for a little over a year and has been trying to get the feel for his new boat. The pool sessions give him that opportunity to practice some new skills, he said.

Playboating, or freestyle kayaking, is a popular style of boating that focuses on tricks. On the river, kayakers stop and play in holes and on waves. Maneuvers from simple surfing to completely inverted aerials, and front flips are possible.

While the pool lacks the dynamics and power of a river, it still offers a place to play.

Flatwater tricks — anything done on still water — are rooted in river-play, but require a bit more muscle from the boater. Without the energy from moving water to help push a kayaker upright, the boater must provide the energy and stability himself.

"I'm making sure I can still cartwheel,"



Rachel Cavanaugh/Montana Kaimin

UM freshman Brandon Robson spins cartwheels in the Grizzly Pool on Sunday evening. The facility reserves Sunday nights between 8 and 10 p.m. for kayakers to practice their rolls.

said Brandon Robson, a freshman in recreation management.

A cartwheel is when the kayaker tilts the boat onto one side and then rotates it tip-over-tip vertically through the water. The trick takes muscle and balance to master.

Stalling is also a popular pool trick to show off impressive boat control. The kayaker buries the front, or bow, of the boat underwater, leaving the tail, or stern, balanced in the air. The kayaker remains bent forward with arms underwater moving the paddle to provide balance. The best kayakers can hold the position for minutes at a time, toppling over only when they are ready, or when they receive

a friendly shove from behind.

Ryan Dunham, an elementary education major, spent most of Sunday night working on holding his stalls. Dunham got about 90 days on the river last season.

"It's too cold to go on the river," Dunham said.

He said the pool provides a good area for him to practice before he goes back to North Carolina for the summer.

Tony Allabastro is studying fire and rescue science, and Sunday was only his third time in a boat. Allabastro was learning to roll a kayak by grabbing onto the edge of the pool and pulling himself upright to get the feeling.

He said he hoped to get his roll down

before the season and meet some people at the pool to go kayaking with.

Throughout the night, better boaters stopped practicing to give beginners hints on finishing their rolls or tricks. When things began to slow down, boaters grouped together to rest.

The sessions are a good way for boaters to meet and learn, because nobody wants to drink cheap beer and river water.

The sessions run from 8 to 10 at night and cost \$3 with a Griz card and \$5 without. Tickets go on sale at the Griz pool at 7:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Only 12 boats can be in the water at a time.

Motocross meets the snow on Seeley Lake track

Jessica Wambach

Montana Kaimin

Sitting on a red Polaris snowmobile, Michael Schramm waits in full gear next to his traveling trailer covered in racing logos and sponsor stickers.

His number is drawn. He heads down the hill, leaving a fresh spray of trampled snow to cover his tracks.

When he reaches the starting line, the race is on, and in a sea of Polarises, Ski-Doos and Arctic Cats, Schramm rounds slushy corners and soars off icy jumps on the way to what he hopes will be a long future in his only sport — snocross.

Schramm doesn't know what kind of job he wants to get when he graduates from Sentinel High School this spring, but he knows it had better pay well if it's going to support his racing efforts. Even if it doesn't, though, all the pain is still worth it to him.

"It's an adrenaline rush," Schramm says. "You don't know what's behind you or what's in front of you. You've just got to go your fastest."

Snocross is similar to motocross, where motorcycle riders race around a dangerous oval track. But in snocross athletes compete on snowmobiles in a season generally running between December and March.

The Rocky Mountain Cross-Country Racing Circuit (RMXCRC), which held an

Snowmobilers find snocross to be a worthwhile sport despite risks, costs

event last weekend in Seeley Lake, consists of eight competitive racing classes that accommodate participants as young as 10 years old. The pro class includes the fastest riders 18 years or older. The semi-pro and sport classes feature slightly slower riders.

Schramm is racing in the sport class this year, but he doesn't plan to stop there. He hopes to move up to the semi-pro class next season.

"I'd love a career," Schramm said. "It's intense."

Schramm didn't perform as well as he would have liked to at Seeley Lake. During the Sport 600 final, he was riding too close to the edge of the track heading into a turn and slammed into the same bump that had stranded dozens of riders throughout the day. Schramm was thrown from his snowmobile and spent several minutes struggling to restart his engine while the rest of the pack nearly lapped him. He finished 12th overall.

His dad attributes Schramm's placement partially to track conditions and partially to the shock he suffered when a teammate fell from his snowmobile and dislocated a shoulder in the first race Saturday.

"He won't run as hard the rest of the day," Dan Schramm said. "You've got to give these guys a lot of credit. But boys are bulletproof."

In the three years he's been snocross racing, Schramm has had his own share of injuries on the bumpy snocross track. Last year he bit off half his tongue during a

race.

"You worry about your kids getting hurt," Schramm's father says. "There's consequences to being able to race."

Another consequence is the toll that snocross racing can take on the pocket-book.

A salesman and mechanic at Kurt's Polaris in Seeley Lake said racing equipment can run from \$20 for a safety cord to \$4,000 for the best engines. And the most competitive racers usually spend between \$6,000 and \$9,000 on a new snowmobile each year. Not to mention, many professional racers hire personal mechanics.

"It's a money pit," Schramm's father says.

While circuit winners are awarded some prize money, the best way for racers to fund their sport is with sponsors.

Schramm has a few sponsors, including a Missoula sticker company. But in general, Dan Schramm says it's difficult for racers who travel across the region to find sponsors in this part of the country.

"Missoula's a tough town to get sponsors," Schramm's father says. "People don't want to give you money if you're 500 to 600 miles from town."

Racers aren't the only ones who shell out big money for races. Kurtis Friede, an organizer for the RMXCRC circuit stop in Seeley Lake, says he and other community volunteers spent three weeks preparing the 3/10-mile-long track for the weekend. Friede says expenses for the event were between \$13,000 and \$14,000, much of

which was funded by community donations.

Before opening Kurt's Polaris in Missoula and Seeley Lake 15 years ago, Friede raced snocross and other snowmobiling sports for 10 years. He was one of about 120 racers who registered to ride over the weekend, but Friede opted not to compete.

"I've been about snowmobiles all my life," Friede says. "I remember the last time I raced. It really hurt."

Although he wasn't racing, Friede had plenty of reasons to be excited about the competition Saturday. His daughter, 13-year-old Heather Friede, was racing for the first time.

"This is mostly a family sport," Friede says with a grin.

Yanking her helmet off at the end of her second race, Heather Friede was excited and fearless.

"It's not scary," she says. "You always have to get a good start."

A good start is Michael Schramm's specialty, his father says. It's his finishes that Schramm wants to work on as he races the RMXCRC circuit, often skipping school to travel to places like Logan, Utah, and McCall, Idaho.

But injuries, expenses and missing school with a looming high school graduation aren't what's on Schramm's mind.

"The only thing on your mind is getting to the front of the pack," Schramm says.

Kennedy criticizes calls, gets suspended

Danny Davis
Montana Kaimin

Montana head coach Pat Kennedy was suspended for one game by the Big Sky Conference this week because of negative comments he made about the officials after Saturday's men's basketball game against Eastern Washington.

Kennedy will not be allowed to attend the Grizzlies' Thursday game at Weber State.

"I obviously used the wrong choice of words in trying to convey my thoughts," Kennedy said.

As stated on the Big Sky Conference's Web site, the conference code says "coaches shall not criticize officials at public gatherings or in presence of representatives of the news media."

The code also says that any coach who violates it will receive a letter of reprimand from the Big Sky Conference in addition to an automatic suspension for the next scheduled game.

During the game, Kennedy was given two technical fouls and ejected from the Eastern Washington game with under 30 seconds left for arguing with official Andy Rios. As Montana switched to defense, Kennedy argued that Rios was not using a five-second count when the Eagles in-bounded the ball toward the game's finale. Montana eventually lost the game 71-53, dropping its record to 5-16 and 2-7 in the Big Sky Conference.

After the game Kennedy released some of his frustration to Missoulian reporter Bob Meseroll.

"You don't cheat the kids," Kennedy was quoted as saying. "Don't ever cheat the student-athletes."



UM head men's basketball coach Pat Kennedy yells at an official during Saturday's game against Eastern Washington. Kennedy was ejected seconds later and is suspended from Thursday's game against Weber State because of comments he made to the press about the game's officials.

Kennedy continued, "There's supposed to be a visible five-second count, it's a simple as that. Our kids were still working hard."

Some of Kennedy's comments were also published in the Spokesman Review.

UM Athletic Director Wayne Hogan said that while Kennedy had a valid point, he improperly addressed his feelings.

"His verbiage was probably not in the best of taste," Hogan said. "It's unfortunate. I think Pat was a victim of using the wrong language in his comment."

Hogan said that he has talked to Kennedy since the suspension was handed down.

"He feels bad and realizes what he said," Hogan said, noting that Kennedy still stands firm in his overall beliefs.

UM Sports spokesman Dave Guffey said that Kennedy will travel with the team to Weber State but will not attend the game.

"I have a lot of faith in my assistant coaches," Kennedy said.

Assistant coach Wayne Tinkle is expected to take his place during the game.

Kennedy will resume his coaching duties on Saturday when the Grizzlies roll into Pocatello, Idaho to play the Idaho State Bengals.

Two soccer players sign letters of intent

The University of Montana announced that two out-of-state high-school students, Tatiana Kaiser and Meghan Chambers, signed National Letters of Intent to compete on the Grizzly soccer team next season.

Kaiser, a 5-foot-8-inch senior who played forward for Sheldon High School in Elk Grove, Calif., scored 12 goals along with 21 assists this season. She has a 3.4 GPA and was voted her team's offensive MVP.

The 5-foot-8 Chambers is from Lake Oswego, Ore., and has experience playing against Grizzlies like Lindsay Winans, Kelly Fullerton and Laura Nogueria during club soccer games in their home state.

She twice received all-league honors playing for Lakeridge High School, meanwhile her club team, the Lake Oswego Fusion, won state titles in 2000, 2001 and 2003.

-Montana Kaimin sports staff

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A new free report has recently been released that reveals information every car accident victim should have before they speak to anyone. Research shows that even a "fender bender" can cause pain, headaches, loss of energy, fatigue, irritability and even arthritis. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than they do their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident, listen to the toll-free recorded message by calling:

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Eyes

Continued from Page 1

Missoula optometrist Janna Greenwell said she agrees that reading is the worst contributor to myopia, but computers are increasingly to blame.

“The thing is, nearsightedness has increased dramatically in the last generation,” Greenwell said.

She blames this in part on a greater reliance on computers. Children’s eyes go bad at an earlier age from playing video games, and students spend too much time on computers, she said.

“It’s easier to read printed text than text off a computer, but when you’re reading it, you’re usually closer than you are when you’re at a computer,” she said.

Studies have so far failed to turn up conclusive evidence linking excessive “near work” to myopia, but some offer compelling testimony that it might.

Of 96 nearsighted students surveyed in a recent study of third-year law students at the University of Pennsylvania, about 86 percent, or 82 students, reported that their myopia worsened in college. In the same study, 75 students who began law school with normal vision were also interviewed. Only about 14 of those students, or 19 percent, became myopic during their time in school.

Some studies conclude that nearsightedness is most common among graduate or professional students. However, many caution

that evidence is hard to obtain. While Ferguson said bookworms are most at risk, Missoula optometrist Sandy Sheppard offered a second opinion.

“I believe it’s genetic,” she said.

She said she has seen few farsighted people develop eye problems. If behavioral factors made eyesight worse, more students would need corrective lenses, she argued.

“You’re not going to see everybody at the University wearing bifocals,” Sheppard said.

Ferguson said a combination of hereditary and environmental factors are in play for many nearsighted people. The old stereotypes about “nerds with big glasses” are sometimes based in reality, he said.

“If they have a hereditary disposition toward nearsightedness, that nearsightedness seems to progress at a lot more rapid pace if they’re doing a lot of reading or a lot of computer work,” he said.

There are ways for book-bound students to slow the onset of myopia, Ferguson and Greenwell said. Glasses can be prescribed for reading and computer use to relieve eye strain. It’s a good idea to take a break from “near” work every half-hour or so to allow the eyes to relax. Nutrition also plays an important role in preserving good eyesight, Greenwell said. Vegetables help, he said, especially carrots and green leafy vegetables like spinach or kale.

Kayaker

Continued from Page 1

south-central Chile.

“The Futaleufu valley makes Glacier, Yellowstone and Yosemite look like the ghetto,” Whalen said Sullivan wrote.

Sullivan also wrote of how proud he was of his ability to assess what he could and couldn’t do.

“Despite his ego saying yes, despite his gut saying go, Sullivan knew his limits of where his skills were,” Whalen said.

Last Saturday, Sullivan’s three friends, Brown, Whalen and Luke Rieker went kayaking on the Alberton Gorge — Whalen inherited Sullivan’s kayak, Brown his paddle, Rieker his belt buckle, complete with a picture of a wave.

“It felt great to be in the water,” Brown said. “I am not going to stop paddling just because of an accident. I don’t want to stop living life.”

With Sullivan’s death so recent, his friends each called his cell phone to leave a final goodbye.

Whalen will travel to Butte to pick-up Ku, one of Sullivan’s biggest loves, his Akida dog. She loves the river.

“I am filling a promise I made to him,” Whalen said. “The last thing he asked me to do was to take her boating.”

Ticket forger pleads guilty, pays up

A student pleaded guilty Monday to misdemeanor forgery charges for copying 10 counterfeit tickets to the Victor Wooten concert.

Michael Kelleher received a one-year suspended sentence from Municipal Court Judge Donald Lauden. He was ordered to pay a \$265 fine and \$215 in restitution.

-Kaimin staff

If you feel like this meager eight pages isn’t enough, check out www.kaimin.org All the Kaimin anyone could ever want.



SENATE MEETING 6 pm UC 323

ASUM is now accepting Student at Large applications available in ASUM office

Do you believe ASUM provides adequate and safe transportation to its students? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you believe ASUM provides adequate access to student group meeting times? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel informed on current issues and what happens at ASUM? Yes ☐ No ☐

Contact Info: _____

If you feel passionate about any of these issues, turn this form into the ASUM senate office and grab a senate application. The last week in April is Walk and Roll week! Volunteers are needed, contact ASUM.

Phone: 243-ASUM Visit the ASUM web page to post your opinions and ideas www.umd.edu/asum

MULTICULTURAL film series

For Colored Girls Wednesday, February 11th. 7:00 pm.

A "choreopoem" that portrays the visions and frustrations of six young women who are trying to come to terms with themselves and with being African-American. It consists of a series of twenty poems spoken by seven women, each of whom is dressed in a different color: red, orange, yellow, green, purple, and blue the six colors of the rainbow & brown, that represents the earth and flesh.

All films are free and open to the public every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the University Center Theater (unless otherwise posted)

The Kaimin assumes no responsibility for advertisements which are placed in the Classified section. We urge all readers to use their best judgment and investigate fully any offers of employment, investment or related topics before paying out any money.



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KAIMIN CLASSIFIEDS

The Kaimin runs classifieds four days a week. Prepayment is required. Classifieds may be placed at Journalism 206 or via FAX: (406)243-5475 or email: kaiminad@selway.umd.edu.

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LEADERS WANTED: Service-Learning projects to Moab, Phenix, and Arcata. Travel and earn valuable experience this spring break. \$250 - \$350 participants, 1/2 for leaders. Call Ben @ OCE 243-5531 ASAP!!!

E-mail CLASSIFIED ADS To: kaiminad@selway.umd.edu E-mail DISPLAY ADS To: kaiminad@kaimin.org

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